

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED NATIONAL REGISTER/GEORGIA REGISTER NOMINATION

1. Name: 1238 Professional Building

2. Location: 1238 2nd Avenue, Columbus, Muscogee County

3a. Description: Built in 1949, the 1238 Professional Building is located near the southeast corner of 2nd Avenue and 13th Street, in downtown Columbus, several blocks east of the Chattahoochee River. Situated on a lot that is less than one acre in size, the narrow end of the two-story rectangular building faces 2nd Avenue to the west and has a parking lot to the south. The building was designed by Columbus architect, Wilbur D. Talley (1899-1960) as a small office building containing 28 professional offices. The building exemplifies the International Style. On the lower level, cast stone blocks at the north and south corners of the façade are topped by a cast stone band that spans the façade's full width, creating a frame for the steel windows, a half wall of dark green marble, and the recessed double-door entrance. Ribbon windows and cast stone bands at the roof line give the overall impression of horizontality across the façade. Further elements of International Style include the use of reinforced concrete for floors, structural steel columns to support the second floor, and a flat roof without eaves. The interior consists of two levels on a basement. The first floor has office spaces, one of which has five a break room, and restrooms. During a recent rehabilitation project, the second floor was converted to accommodate three residential living units, and a new exterior stair was constructed for egress. The rehabilitation included retaining original features such as the central hallway, doors, and exterior windows. Historic materials include trim, plaster walls, and acoustical Celotex ceilings. The hallway doors are the building's original frosted glass office doors, many of which retain historic lettering from former tenants. The exterior metal windows retain their prism glass. Overall, the 1238 Professional Building retains a high level of integrity through its location, setting, association, materials, design, workmanship, and feeling.

3b. Period of Significance: 1949

3c. Acreage: Less than one acre

3d. Boundary Explanation: The proposed boundary is the building footprint.

4a. National Register Criteria: C

4b. National Register Areas of Significance: Architecture

4c. Statement of Significance: The 1238 Professional Building, designed by Wilbur D. Talley, is locally significant in the area of architecture as a good representative example of an International-Style building in Columbus. Character-defining features include a flat roof without eaves terminating flush with the wall plane, smooth wall surfaces, and large expanses of windows. Poppeliers and Chambers note the importance of the windows and the bands that separate them as a key feature whereby these strips of windows and solid planes convey a horizontal feeling. Marcus Whiffen also emphasizes the importance of ribbon windows used in the International Style to express "horizontality." Embodying this trademark of the style, the ribbons of hopper windows with rectangular steel muntins on the 1238 Professional Building create a horizontal impression and visually expand the building's front elevation. Asymmetrical window openings on the north and south elevations convey their utilitarian purpose of providing interior light rather than adhering to an impractical forced symmetry. Also characteristic of the International Style is the building's pronounced rectilinear articulation and overall lack of non-essential ornamentation. Ideals of simple forms and self-expressive materials are evident in the composition of the main façade which is broken into two horizontal segments. On the upper level, a set of five windows are grouped together to form a large expanse of glass nearly flush to the exterior wall plane, while dark green marble panels topped with steel framed windows give the effect of a visual recess of the building's lower-level façade plane. The overall impression is one of simple lines flowing horizontally, visually expanding the building's relatively narrow 35-foot-wide front façade. At only two stories tall, the 1238 Professional Building exhibits an economic application of space on the narrow urban lot. As one of four extant buildings designed in the mid-20th century by Wilbur Talley in downtown Columbus, the 1238 Professional Building functions as an important entry on the architectural timeline that defines the evolution of building styles in Columbus.

4d. Suggested Level of Significance: The 1238 Professional Building is significant at the local level under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a good representative example of an International-Style building in Columbus.

5. Sponsor: The nomination is sponsored and prepared by Ken Henson, Managing Member, 238 Uptown, LLC.